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TAGS: PTER MASS PREL JO

SUBJECT: GOJ REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY COUNTERTERRORISM AND  
NATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE FUNDING

REF: A. AMMAN 8845 (NOTAL)

1B. AMMAN 8829

1C. WHITE HOUSE DTG 150216 DEC 05

Classified By: CDA Daniel Rubinstein, for reasons 1.5 b and d

11. (S/NF) Haitham Mufti, King Abdullah,s key advisor for many security assistance issues involving the USG, conveyed on December 18 the GoJ,s formal request for additional U.S. assistance in the wake of the November 9 Amman hotel bombings that killed more than 60.

12. (S/NF) Mufti briefed Charge on a detailed (GOJ-classified) memorandum describing Jordan,s request. DATT and SIMO chief were also present at the meeting. The GOJ memorandum bases the request on an assessment that terrorists will continue to attempt to carry out attacks against Jordan like those of November 9, and that such attacks will destabilize Jordan politically and economically.

13. (S/NF) Highlights of the Jordanian request include requirements for:

--hardware such as x-ray and Gamma-ray machines for border posts and airports,

--a network of closed-circuit cameras and monitors for public places and sensitive sites,

--a comprehensive study of the training needs of Jordanian security personnel,

--in-depth management assessments of coordination among GOJ security agencies,

--an inventory of critical infrastructure, and a study of needed enhancements to infrastructure security,

--studies of GOJ security-related communications needs, and upgrades as needed,

--the construction and equipping of a crisis management operations center,

--training and establishment of an improved interagency counterterrorism coordination unit,

--a national biometric database.

14. (S/NF) The Jordanian requests, which are spread over three years, are estimated by the GoJ at a total cost of about USD 340 million. Mufti emphasized that the eventual specific needs in the request ( especially the hardware ) could change depending on the results of the various assessments the GoJ seeks of its current vulnerabilities and needs.

15. (S/NF) Neither the Jordanian request memorandum nor the discussion with Mufti indicate whether the GoJ has specific USG funding mechanisms in mind at this point. Post believes, however, that other elements of current USG security assistance programs aside from FMF could be quickly accessed for the central assessment portions of the Jordanian request should they be approved by the USG.

16. (S) The GoJ memorandum detailing the assistance request will be sent electronically to relevant Washington addressees.

RUBINSTEIN